

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02281 271628Z  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02  
/067 W

-----271644Z 084805 /47

O R 271557Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 708  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2281

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SW, US  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS ON RACISM IN SWEDEN

1. THE CHARGE CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL-DESIGNATE LEIF LEIFLAND MAY 27 REGARDING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS ABOUT SWEDISH RACISM REPORTED IN THE PRESS.
2. THE CHARGE SAID: "PRESS REPORTS HAVE CITED REMARKS BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ANDREW YOUNG TO THE EFFECT THAT SWEDES WERE 'RACISTS.' I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS MAKING PERSONAL REMARKS IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH REPORTERS ABOUT WORLD RACIAL PROBLEMS. HIS STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT ANY OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT."
3. THE CHARGE ADDED THAT HIS PERSONAL OPINION, BASED ON A YEAR'S STAY IN SWEDEN, WAS THAT THE SWEDES WERE AS FREE FROM RACIAL PREJUDICE AS ANY COUNTRY THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH, AND THAT MANY AMERICANS ADMIRERED GREATLY THE SWEDISH ATTITUDE ON RACIAL MATTERS AND THEIR RECORD TOWARDS FOREIGNERS IN SWEDEN.

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4. LEIFLAND SAID THAT WHEN HE HEARD THE REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS, HE HAD ASKED AMBASSADOR THUNBORG AT THE UN TO SPEAK WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD (USUN 1672) AND LATER WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, AND HAD SAID RIGHT AWAY THAT THIS WOULD BE THE END OF THE MATTER. LEIFLAND SAID THAT SWEDEN DID NOT HAVE ANY GUILTY CONSCIENCE ABOUT ITS RACIAL RECORD, AND SWEDEN HAD NO INTENTION

TO LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS CAUSE ANY PROBLEM BETWEEN US. HE SAID THE US AND THE SWEDISH ATTITUDE ON MANY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING AFRICAN PROBLEMS, WERE VERY CLOSE NOWADAYS, AND NOTHING SHOULD DISTURB THE FINE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION. LEIFLAND ALSO NOTED THAT THE SWEDISH PRESS HAD TREATED THE STORY IN ANECDOTAL FASHION WITHOUT TAKING GREAT UMBRAGE. HE SAID THE GOS CONSIDERED THE MATTER CLOSED.

5. COMMENT. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE SWEDES HAVE TAKEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENTS IN THEIR STRIDE, AND THAT THEY VALUE THEIR COOPERATION WITH US TOO MUCH TO LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS INTERFERE. STILL, THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT NEXT TIME AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL PICK ON ANOTHER COUNTRY BESIDES SWEDEN.  
PERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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